

Jobs Requiring College Degrees

Rhode Island's Outlook for 2012

Rhode Island employment is expected to increase by over 58,000 jobs during the 2002-2012 projection period. Employment in 2012 is projected to reach 563,909, an increase of 58,348 (11.5%) from the 2002 employment level of 505,561.

During the projection period, it is estimated that employers will need to find workers to fill over 178,000 job openings. Job openings result from the need to replace workers who leave an occupation and from the need to fill vacancies created by business expansion. Nearly one-third of the projected job openings is attributed to the economic growth that is expected to occur during the projection period. The remaining job openings are due to replacement needs resulting from employee turnover. Over 40 percent of the new job growth that is expected during the ten-year projection period is likely to occur among jobs requiring college degrees – Associate's, Bachelor's, Master's, Doctoral and Professional degrees.

Job openings requiring Associate's Degrees are projected to grow at more than twice the average rate accounting for nearly 10 percent of the expected job growth estimated for the projection period. Hourly wages range from a high of \$30.20 for Nuclear Medicine Technologists to a low of a \$12.43 for Veterinary Technologists/Technicians. Registered Nurses tops the list in terms of annual openings, providing nearly 600 a year at an average rate of \$25.79 per hour.

Occupations requiring a Bachelor's Degree are expected to account for nearly 20 percent of the job growth that is likely to occur during the projection period. Opportunities are expected to be plentiful for those seeking careers as Accountants and Auditors, Elementary and Secondary School Teachers, Computer Systems Analysts, Social Workers (Child, Family, School) and Personal Financial Advisors. Median hourly wages range from a high of \$39.76 earned by Electronics Engineers to a low of \$17.90 earned by Graphic Designers.

Above-average growth is also projected for occupations requiring a Master's Degree. Rehabilitation Counselors, Physical Therapists and Speech/Language Pathologists are among the growing jobs requiring a Master's degree.

Occupations requiring a Doctoral Degree include those that require the completion of a Ph.D. or other doctoral degrees, which usually require at least three years of full-time academic study beyond the Bachelor's Degree. Clinical, Counseling and School Psychologists, Medical Scientists and Post Secondary Teachers are among the growing jobs requiring a Doctoral Degree. Median annual wages range from a high of \$97,330 for Atmospheric, Earth, Marine, and Space Sciences Postsecondary Teachers to a low of a \$37,357 for Medical Scientists.

Occupations requiring a Professional Degree are projected to grow at a below-average rate generating less than 900 new jobs during the ten-year projection period. However, replacement needs will generate an additional 1,500 jobs during the period. Lawyers, Pharmacists and Medical Doctors will account for a substantial majority of the projected job openings.

Following is a list of jobs requiring Associate's, Bachelor's, Master's, Doctoral or Professional degrees that are expected to be in the most demand. Included for each job are employment levels, projected annual openings and the median hourly or annual wage.

Employment in Jobs Requiring College Degrees

	2002 Estimated Employment	2012 Projected Employment	Openings Due to Growth	Openings Due to Replacement	Total Projected Openings
Total Employment*	505,561	563,909	58,348	120,030	178,378
Employment in Jobs Requiring College Degrees	127,801	151,577	23,776	24,294	48,070
Associate Degree	22,808	28,235	5,427	4,380	9,807
Bachelor's Degree	62,976	74,098	11,122	12,011	23,133
Bachelor's or Higher Degree, Plus Work Experience	18,464	21,665	3,201	3,452	6,653
Master's Degree	9,869	11,910	2,041	2,091	4,132
Doctoral Degree	4,169	5,276	1,107	879	1,986
First Professional Degree	9,515	10,393	878	1,481	2,359

* Includes wage and salary workers, self-employed, unpaid family members, agricultural, and private household workers.

Jobs Requiring an Associate's Degree

Occupational Title	Employment		Growth	Annual Replacement		Median Wage
	2002	2012		Total		
Registered Nurses	12,276	15,518	324	257	581	\$25.79
Computer Support Specialists	1,733	2,120	39	21	60	\$17.73
Radiologic Technologists & Technicians	875	1,045	17	16	33	\$22.92
Medical Records & Health Information Technicians	649	887	24	9	33	\$14.19
Paralegals & Legal Assistants	847	1,100	25	7	32	\$17.63
Veterinary Technologists & Technicians	356	520	16	5	21	\$12.43
Dental Hygienists	626	779	15	5	21	\$25.98
Electrical & Electronic Engineering Technicians	755	792	4	16	20	\$21.59
Respiratory Therapists	257	344	9	8	17	\$21.31
Medical & Clinical Laboratory Technicians	423	473	5	11	16	\$19.33
Physical Therapist Assistants	217	294	8	4	11	\$18.32
Environmental Science Technicians, Including Health	211	265	5	5	10	INA
Cardiovascular Technologists & Technicians	170	228	6	3	9	\$19.59
Electro-Mechanical Technicians	369	381	1	8	9	\$15.38
Chemical Technicians	216	251	4	5	9	\$17.06
Civil Engineering Technicians	351	361	1	7	8	INA
Industrial Engineering Technicians	240	273	3	5	8	\$18.81
Diagnostic Medical Sonographers	190	226	4	4	7	\$27.36
Broadcast Technicians	152	174	2	4	6	\$13.85
Funeral Directors	205	200	(1)	6	6	\$21.16
Nuclear Medicine Technologists	97	119	2	2	4	\$30.20
Mechanical Engineering Technicians	124	133	1	3	3	\$19.30
Medical Equipment Repairers	83	92	1	2	3	\$18.53
Biological Technicians	45	67	2	1	3	\$13.02

Jobs Requiring a Bachelor's Degree and Work Experience

Occupational Title	Employment		Growth	Annual Replacement		Median Wage
	2002	2012		Total		
General & Operations Managers	4,192	4,680	49	79	128	\$37.15
Management Analysts	1,549	2,119	57	21	78	\$31.53
Financial Managers	1,836	2,150	31	26	58	\$42.64
Education Administrators, Postsecondary	1,141	1,365	22	28	51	\$31.78
Computer & Information Systems Managers	995	1,309	31	18	49	\$42.98
Medical & Health Services Managers	1,046	1,319	27	20	48	\$35.57
Chief Executives	1,183	1,307	12	22	35	INA
Education Administrators, Elementary & Secondary	857	980	12	21	34	\$83,500
Marketing Managers	868	1,043	18	16	34	\$32.61
Sales Managers	681	837	16	13	28	\$43.94
Administrative Services Managers	660	763	10	13	23	\$38.32
Human Resources Managers	638	739	10	11	21	\$36.26
Engineering Managers	468	484	2	9	11	\$46.16

These jobs require the completion of a Bachelor's Degree or higher plus work related experience.

Jobs Requiring a Bachelor's Degree

Occupational Title	Employment		Annual Growth	Replacement	Total	Median Wage
	2002	2012				
Accountants & Auditors	4,580	5,537	96	86	182	\$23.94
Secondary School Teachers	4,285	4,789	50	121	171	\$52,940
Elementary School Teachers	4,993	5,428	44	110	154	\$55,910
Computer Systems Analysts	1,935	2,592	66	22	88	\$30.42
Child, Family, & School Social Workers	2,387	2,786	40	41	81	\$19.25
Computer Programmers	2,025	2,267	24	48	72	\$25.68
Personal Financial Advisors	744	1,249	51	10	60	\$27.06
Computer Software Engineers, Applications	1,097	1,589	49	11	60	\$34.88
Loan Officers	1,484	1,838	35	24	59	INA
Special Education Teachers, Pre-K - Elementary	1,216	1,498	28	29	57	\$49,930
Securities, Commodities, & Financial Services Sales Agents	1,281	1,687	41	15	55	\$23.98
Insurance Sales Agents	2,175	2,102	(7)	52	52	\$24.53
Middle School Teachers	1,757	1,808	5	39	44	\$49,580
Electronics Engineers, Except Computer	1,304	1,427	12	26	38	\$39.76
Medical & Clinical Laboratory Technologists	775	898	12	21	33	\$25.06
Financial Analysts	774	986	21	11	33	\$26.58
Employment, Recruitment, & Placement Specialists	920	1,090	17	14	31	\$22.16
Computer Software Engineers, Systems Software	637	871	23	6	30	\$35.43
Network & Computer Systems Administrators	747	961	21	8	30	\$28.58
Construction Managers	681	849	17	12	29	\$37.03
Public Relations Specialists	693	865	17	10	27	\$23.17
Social & Community Service Managers	764	883	12	15	27	\$24.20
Mechanical Engineers	916	874	(4)	25	25	\$35.62
Special Education Teachers, Secondary School	527	647	12	13	25	\$55,440
Chemists	330	457	13	11	23	\$27.33
Graphic Designers	706	831	13	9	22	\$17.90
Network Systems & Data Communications Analysts	340	518	18	4	22	\$26.58
Training & Development Specialists	479	592	11	7	19	\$22.50
Occupational Therapists	438	557	12	6	18	\$24.45
Property, Real Estate, & Community Association Mgrs	543	612	7	10	17	\$24.98
Database Administrators	291	422	13	3	16	\$31.06
Compensation, Benefits, & Job Analysis Specialists	378	481	10	6	16	\$22.87
Kindergarten Teachers, Except Special Education	521	619	10	6	16	\$51,730
Industrial Production Managers	610	576	(3)	12	15	\$39.09
Special Education Teachers, Middle School	316	390	7	8	15	\$55,620
Industrial Engineers	540	548	1	13	14	\$31.94
Civil Engineers	584	621	4	9	13	\$30.10
Medical & Public Health Social Workers	288	358	7	5	12	\$21.61
Insurance Underwriters	504	529	3	9	11	\$22.71
Budget Analysts	320	367	5	5	10	\$27.56
Environmental Engineers	231	289	6	4	10	\$30.58
Tax Examiners, Collectors, & Revenue Agents	368	380	1	8	10	INA
Writers & Authors	341	378	4	6	10	\$19.73

Jobs Requiring a Master's Degree

Occupational Title	Employment		Growth	Annual		Median Wage
	2002	2012		Replacement	Total	
Rehabilitation Counselors	728	916	19	17	35	\$12.82
Mental Health & Substance Abuse Social Workers	611	829	22	10	32	\$15.83
Physical Therapists	804	1043	24	8	32	\$29.10
Librarians	936	1003	7	22	29	\$24.01
Educational, Vocational, & School Counselors	887	964	8	20	28	\$24.92
Speech-Language Pathologists	574	686	11	14	25	\$26.52
Mental Health Counselors	523	650	13	12	25	\$14.02
Substance Abuse & Behavioral Disorder Counselors	512	635	12	12	24	\$13.38
Art, Drama, & Music Teachers, Postsecondary	314	420	11	7	18	INA
Business Teachers, Postsecondary	315	418	10	7	17	\$72,850
English Language & Literature Teachers, Postsecondary	300	391	9	7	16	\$64,010
Instructional Coordinators	405	496	9	6	15	\$19.10
Environmental Scientists & Specialists, Including Health	353	420	7	6	13	INA

Jobs Requiring a Doctoral Degree

Occupational Title	Employment		Growth	Annual		Median Wage
	2002	2012		Replacement	Total	
Clinical, Counseling, & School Psychologists	713	865	15	16	31	\$29.50
Medical Scientists, Except Epidemiologists	570	711	14	10	24	\$17.96
Atmospheric, Earth, Marine, & Space Sciences Teachers, Postsecondary	230	298	7	5	12	\$97,330
Engineering Teachers, Postsecondary	203	263	6	5	11	\$77,770
Nursing Instructors & Teachers, Postsecondary	194	251	6	4	10	\$53,570
Philosophy & Religion Teachers, Postsecondary	149	203	5	3	9	INA
Computer & Information Scientists, Research	380	418	4	4	8	\$37.84
Biological Science Teachers, Postsecondary	147	191	4	3	8	\$65,980
History Teachers, Postsecondary	141	186	5	3	8	\$72,990

Jobs Requiring a Professional Degree

Occupational Title	Employment		Growth	Annual		Median Wage
	2002	2012		Replacement	Total	
Lawyers	2,882	3,282	40	37	77	\$37.47
Pharmacists	1,197	1,350	15	23	39	\$39.34
Internists, General	642	706	6	9	15	\$66.11
Pediatricians, General	528	605	8	7	15	\$59.74
Family and General Practicioners	734	760	3	10	13	INA
Veterinarians	244	308	6	6	12	\$33.72
Dentists	668	630	(4)	11	11	INA

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